

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating laundry, the method comprising:
 - (a) washing the laundry with a detergent use solution at an alkaline pH in a laundry washing machine for removal of soil from the laundry; and thereafter
 - (b) applying a ~~bleaching and antimicrobial composition~~ laundry treatment composition comprising a bleaching/antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of a halogen bleach, an oxygen bleach, and mixtures thereof comprising at least one of a halogen bleach and an oxygen bleach, to the laundry in a laundry washing machine at a pH from about 2 to about 4 and thereafter at a pH from about 8 to about 11; wherein a pH adjusting agent is added to increase the pH; and
 - (c) draining the ~~bleaching and antimicrobial~~ laundry treatment composition from the laundry.
2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~bleaching and antimicrobial~~ laundry treatment composition further comprises a detergent composition for removal of soil from the laundry.
3. (Canceled).
4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - (a) draining at least a portion of the detergent use solution from the laundry washing machine prior to the step of applying the ~~bleaching and antimicrobial~~ laundry treatment composition to the laundry.

5. (Canceled).
6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of applying ~~a bleaching and antimicrobial~~ the laundry treatment composition to the laundry in a laundry wash machine comprises bleaching for between about 1 minute and about 20 minutes, and providing antimicrobial properties for between about 1 minute and about 20 minutes.
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the pH adjusting agent comprises at least one of alkaline metal hydroxide, alkaline metal silicate, alkaline metal carbonate, alkaline metal bicarbonate, alkaline metal sesquicarbonate, and alkaline metal borate.
11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~bleaching and antimicrobial~~ laundry treatment composition comprises a coated pH adjusting agent that introduces the pH adjusting agent once the coating has degraded.
12. (Canceled).
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the halogen bleach comprises at least one of chlorine dioxide, potassium dichloroisocyanurate, sodium dichloroisocyanurate, chlorinated trisodiumphosphate, sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite, lithium hypochlorite, monochloramine, dichloroamine, [(monotrichloro)-tetra (monopotassium dichloro)]pentaaisocyanurate, paratoluene sulfondichloro-amide, trichloromelamine, N-chlorammeline, N-chlorosuccinimide, N,N'-dichloroazodicarbonamide, N-chloro-acetyl-urea, N,N'-dichlorobiuret, chlorinated dicyandiamide, trichlorocyanuric acid,

dichloroglycoluril, 1,3-dichloro-5,5-dimethyl hydantoin, 1-3-dichloro-5-ethyl-5-methyl hydantoin, 1-chloro-3-bromo-5-ethyl-5-methyl hydantoin, dichlorohydantoin, salts or hydrates thereof, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen bleach comprises an inorganic active oxygen composition comprising at least one of hydrogen peroxide, hydrogen peroxide adduct, ozone, group IIIA active oxygen compound, group VIA active oxygen compound, group VA active oxygen compound, group VIIA active oxygen compound, and mixtures thereof.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen bleach comprises at least one of a peroxycarboxylic acid, an ester of peroxycarboxylic acid, an alkaline metal salt of a peroxycarboxylic acid, and adducts thereof.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen bleach comprises at least one of C₁-C₁₀ aliphatic peroxycarboxylic acid, salt of C₁-C₁₀ aliphatic peroxycarboxylic acid, ester of C₁-C₁₀ aliphatic peroxycarboxylic acid, and mixture thereof.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen bleach comprises peroxyoctanoic acid.

19. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~bleaching and antimicrobial~~ laundry treatment composition further comprises an activator.

20. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~bleaching and antimicrobial~~ laundry treatment composition further comprises at least one of souring agents, fabric softening agents, starch, sizing agents, color-fastness agents, oil and water repellant agents, water conditioning agents, iron controlling agents, water threshold agents, soil releasing agents, soil shielding agents, optical brightening agents, fragrances, and mixtures thereof.

21. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of rinsing the ~~bleaching and antimicrobial~~ laundry treatment composition from the laundry.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Withdrawn) A bleaching and antimicrobial composition comprising:

(a) a bleaching/antimicrobial agent comprising at least one of a halogen bleach and an oxygen bleach; and

(b) a coated pH adjusting agent for adjusting the pH of the bleaching and antimicrobial composition once the coating degrades.

24. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the pH adjusting agent comprises at least one of sulfuric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, carboxylic acid, carbon dioxide, ozone, and mixtures thereof.

25. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the pH adjusting agent comprises at least one of alkaline metal hydroxide, alkaline metal silicate, alkaline metal carbonate, alkaline metal bicarbonate, alkaline metal sesquicarbonate, and alkaline metal borate.

26. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the coating comprises a cellulose derivative.

27. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the bleaching/antimicrobial agent comprises at least one of chlorine dioxide, potassium dichloroisocyanurate, sodium dichloroisocyanurate, chlorinated trisodiumphosphate, sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite, lithium hypochlorite, monochloramine, dichloroamine, [(monotrichloro)-tetra (monopotassium dichloro)]pentaaisocyanurate, paratoluene sulfondichloroamide, trichloromelamine, N-chlorammeline, N-chlorosuccinimide, N,N'-dichloroazodicarbonamide, N-chloro-acetyl-urea, N,N'-dichlorobiuret, chlorinated

dicyandiamide, trichlorocyanuric acid, dichloroglycoluril, 1,3-dichloro-5,5-dimethyl hydantoin, 1-3-dichloro-5-ethyl-5-methyl hydantoin, 1-chloro-3-bromo-5-ethyl-5-methyl hydantoin, dichlorohydantoin, salts or hydrates thereof, and mixtures thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the bleaching/antimicrobial agent comprises at least one of hydrogen peroxide, hydrogen peroxide adduct, ozone, group IIIA active oxygen compound, group VIA active oxygen compound, group VA active oxygen compound, group VIIA active oxygen compound, and mixtures thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the bleaching/antimicrobial agent comprises at least one of a peroxycarboxylic acid, an ester of peroxycarboxylic acid, an alkaline metal salt of a peroxycarboxylic acid, and adducts thereof.

30. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the bleaching/antimicrobial agent comprises at least one of C₁-C₁₀ aliphatic peroxycarboxylic acid, salt of C₁-C₁₀ aliphatic peroxycarboxylic acid, ester of C₁-C₁₀ aliphatic peroxycarboxylic acid, and mixture thereof.

31. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the bleaching/antimicrobial agent comprises peroxyoctanoic acid.

32. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 23, further comprising an activator.

33. (Withdrawn) A laundry washing machine comprising:

- (a) a drum having an interior for holding laundry;
- (b) a motor constructed and arranged for rotating the drum;
- (c) a water inlet for introducing water into the drum interior;
- (d) a chemical inlet for introducing chemicals into the drum interior;

(e) a drain for allowing fluid to drain from the drum interior; and

(f) a processing unit constructed for operating the laundry washing machine to provide a washing cycle for washing laundry with a detergent use solution, a rinsing cycle for removal of at least a portion of the detergent use solution, and a treatment cycle for treating laundry with a bleaching and antimicrobial composition at a first pH that favors bleaching properties and at a second pH that favors antimicrobial properties.

34. (Withdrawn) A laundry wash machine according to claim 32, further comprising:

(a) a second chemical inlet for introducing a pH adjusting agent into the drum interior.